

## Documented Essay (Unit 2 Paper)

English 101  
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### Art and Social Change: Gallery Assignment

During this unit, we have examined readings and other resources related to the intersection of art and social change. We have looked at art in public spaces: Black Lives Matters street paintings and murals, Confederate Monuments and what replaces the ones that have been removed. We have looked at contemporary Afrofuturism as an expression and extension of anti-racist and pro-Black activist movements. We have looked at textile arts as a means of protest in the United States and Chile. Now it's your turn to play:

#### The "Paper":

Y'all, I'm excited. This is the project I built the Open Lab site for. This is why I've been having you practice making posts on the site and practice the trust and courage inherent in making work where other people can see it. WE HAVE TRAINED FOR THIS.

Rather than a traditional paper, for this project you will build a little jewel of a post, something that will ultimately live on as a little jewel of a web page -- which, by the way, means it will be a public thing you can show off to the people in your lives you show off it, and maybe even use it as a work sample on applications for jobs and school and all that good stuff. It's going to be work, but my hope is that it is work that is \*considerably\* more valuable for you than banging out another paper only one person reads. AND more fun.

Your post will meet the following department requirements:

- At least 750-1000 words of YOUR writing
- An overarching thesis argument -- something you want us to leave your exhibit *believing* about the topic you have chosen
- At least THREE outside sources you quote from or otherwise use to support your point. (See below.)
- MLA-style citation of those sources, including parenthetical citations in-text and a Works Cited list at the end.

Your post will also meet these requirements:

- Be fun to engage with! You will incorporate photographs and videos and music and other fun stuff to show us your artist/movement/art form
- Make connections to other artists/movements! The internet is so good at this! Link this baby UP, you hear me?
- Be something you are proud of. Yeah, you heard me.

#### About those sources:

Your essay will use (and appropriately cite) at least 3 outside sources. Two of them CAN (but don't have to) be sources we used for class. **At least one MUST be a source you find for yourself.** (But of course you can have help in this from the library!) You are not required to use peer-reviewed (aka "scholarly") sources for this paper, but your sources should be credible and high-quality.

**About that topic:**

But what, you ask, do I write \*about\*? Well! That's the fun part! Your job is to pay attention to your playful mind and see what in the readings sparks it, then go explore that. Your topic MUST relate to the intersection of art and social change. It can be about a movement we looked at in class, but it can also be about a different movement. Or a different artist or art form. Some jumping off points:

- Go learn more about an artist or movement we looked at in class
- Go learn more about a related artist -- a different Afrofuturist, for instance
- Go learn more about a different movement's art! For instance:
  - 
  - music of the American Civil Rights Movement -- you'll end up wanting to choose a particular musician or song, trust me
  - Watch *Amandla!* Learn about South Africa!
  - Soviet-era posters
  - Solidarity's graphic design (I have a great essay for you)
  - Serbian laughtivism!
  - Chilean arpilleras!
  - Hawaiian flag quilts! (yes! this is a thing!)
  - Billie Holiday!
  - Guerilla Girls!

**Y'all, there's no end to this. Find something that interests you and go to it.**